BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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B. C. L. A. Officers 1945-1946

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JOINT COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee on Library Policy of the Public Library Commission and the British Columbia Library Association has completed and published the Programme for Library Development in British Columbia, of which a draft was presented to B. C. L. A. members at the special meeting of October 12, 1945.

1400 copies of the report have been given a wide distribution: to M. L. A.'s and senior provincial and civic officials; to libraries and their boards in British Columbia; to the four state libraries in the northwest and to library associations; to B. C. Newspapers and radio stations; to the National Film Board; to important cultural and educational organizations in B. C., such as Farmers' and Womens' Institutes, Boards of Trade, trade unions and provincial government employees' associations; and to persons particularly interested in libraries.

Dr. Lamb will report on the Programme at the 1946 B. C. L. A. conference.

On Monday, January 21st, 1946, a delegation from the Joint Committee met in the Vancouver Courthouse with the Honourable G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, to discuss the Programme. The delegation consisted of Dr. W. K. Lamb, Chairman of the Joint Committee; Mr. E. S. Robinson, representing the Public Library Commission; Miss Irene McAfee, President, and Miss Margaret J. Clay, Chairman of the Public

Relations Committee, from the British Columbia Library Association; Miss B. M. Carruthers from the British Columbia Teachers' Federation; and Mr. C. K. Morison, Provincial Librarian.

Dr. Weir, who had obviously read the Programme with careful attention to both the principles and the details involved, gave the delegation a most sympathetic and encouraging hearing.

As many of the plans will be of concern to municipal authorities, Dr. Weir strongly advised the delegation to submit their brief, prefaced by a suitable summary, to the Goldberg Commission which in February is scheduled to commence a thorough investigation of provincial-municipal financial relations.

Dr. Lamb touched upon one matter not specifically mentioned in the Programme: the desirability of requiring libraries to reach certain standards of staff and service as well as of local financial support before they would be entitled to provincial grants-in-aid on the scale recommended.

Miss Carruthers, representing the B. C. Teachers' Federation, asked for the appointment of a Director of School Libraries, pointing out that this measure would simply extend the present practice of the Department of Education to another subject field, and would not require any new legislation.

Mr. Robinson raised the question of the possibility of providing library school training in British Columbia. The present acute shortage of trained personnel and the certainty that this shortage would continue for a term of years, made such a course highly desirable, even if only on some short-term basis. Dr. Weir advised Mr. Robinson to discuss the matter with President MacKenzie of the University of British Columbia, and requested that a memorandum embodying the concensus of their discussion be submitted to the Minister as soon as possible.

Miss McAfee pointed out that the Ontario government gives an annual grant of $1000 to the Ontario Library Association, and asked if it would not be possible for the government of British Columbia to make a grant of, say, half that amount to the British Columbia Library Association. It was suggested that this might be accomplished most simply by an amendment to the Public Libraries Act which would give the Public Library Commission authority to make such a grant out of the fund appropriated by the Legislature for grants-in-aid.

The B. C. L. A. executive reports that several persons and organizations seem to have studied the Programme and to have approved of its ideas; many suggestions for carrying out its recommendations, and promises of active assistance have already come in. This shows that it is possible to rouse the B. C. public to the importance of adequate library service; but we must do our share in the campaign!

LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. C. K. Morison, Chairman of the B. C. L. A. Labor Relations Committee, went as our delegate to the provincial conference of the Trades and Labor Congress, held in Vancouver, November 22nd and 23rd, 1945. He reports as follows:

This conference, held in lieu of a national convention which was disallowed by reason of transportation rulings, was attended by 82 delegates representing 86 unions, locals and other grojps, with a total membership of 28,683. Slighely over 200 resolutions (considerably reduced by consolidation), were submitted for discussion in 5 sessions.

In the opinion of your delegate, who attended all sessions, the nature of business transacted and the manner in which it was handled provided good evidence that our Association's financial and moral support is fully justified, and that professional workers can and do make a worthwhile contribution to the affairs of organized labor. The B. C. Teachers' Federation was ably representd by Principal C. J. Oates who was one of the five members of the Resolutions Committee. Your delegate, incidentally, received a suggestion that librarians should be represented on the local Trades and Labor Councils. He in turn suggests to our members that the value of such representation might far override any minor objections or difficulties that would have to be overcome in order to accomplish this.

At the opening of the conference your delegate was afforded a few minutes to describe briefly Provincial Library and Public Library Commission service available to people in the outlying parts of the Province. He also embraced the opportunity to urge local support of the Vancouver Public Library by-law.

Space does not here permit the discussion of even a representative fraction of the business dealt with. It natually included many forthright but reasonable resolutions (which will be duly presented to the proper authorities) on such questions as wages, the work week, workmen's compensation, health insurance, unemployment insurance, education, cost-of-living bonus, collective bargaining, old age pensions, public ownership, rehabilitation. The Association's own resolution was unanimously adopted, as follows:-

Whereas in the opinion of organized labor, as represented in this B. C. Provincial conference of groups affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the need of public educational facilities on the broadest possible basis is one of the most important needs in our society today; and,

Whereas public libraries are the most widely accepted and fully tried means of providing adequate facilities for the continuous self-education of the general public outside of schools and colleges; and

Whereas an entirely inadequate amount of money is expended by the Provincial and Municipal Governments on this form of educational service, to the very serious detriment of our libraries and of the public they serve - the utter inadequacy of public library buildings in Vancouver and Victoria typifying present lacks in this respect.

Therefore Be It Resolved that this convention go on record as urging upon the authorities concerned, the immediate remedying of this situation by devoting to public libraries the official attention and the financial support compatible with their important place in the educational and cultural life of the community; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be communicated to the Honourable the Minister of Education, the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and the President and Executive of the Union of B. C. Minicipalities.

Word has since been received from Miss Elizabeth Morton that at a meeting she attended in Ottawa, this resolution was read aloud by Percy Bengough, National President of T. L. C., and that the Library Association of Ottawa was much impressed.

Your delegate moved an amendment to this resolution which was referred back to the Resolutions Committee and later unanimously adopted as a separate resolution as follows:-

Be It Further Resolved that this conference strongly endorse the by-law for improved public library service in Vancouver which is to be submitted to the electors at the 1945 municipal election; and that it urge upon all unions in the City of Vancouver to appoint special committees within their locals to work actively for the adoption of this by-law.

Other resolutions on education recommended increased vocational training facilities, inclusion of studies in trade union history and precedure in school curricula, increased Dominion support of Pro-Rec activities, compulsory education to age 18, setting a minimum of 25 pupils per class-room, free university education to duly qualified applicants.

One of the most important features of the conference had to do with labor unity. There was some evidence of a desire in influential quarters to sidetrack certain phases of action recommended in this direction, but there was vocal determination on the part of the rank and file for unbroken ranks in organized labor, and resolutions were finally and unanimously adopted in favor of the following:-

(1) A joint A. F. L. and C. C. C. delegation to present labor's legislative program to the cabinet before the next session of the Provincial legislature.

(2) The calling of a national convention of labor in which every section of organized labor in Canada will be represented.

((3) Affiliation of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada with the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Last but not least, it should be reported that the very first resolubion adopted by the conference was one in support of the Windsor strikers on the front-line of organized labor's postwar struggle.

CERTIFICATION OF LIBRARIANS

By order-in-council dated October 3, 1944, the following were appointed "to examine the credentials of applicants for certification as librarians and to conduct such examinations as may be deemed essential":- Miss B. M. Carruthers, Mr. T. W. Hall, Mr. C. K. Morison, Mr. E. S. Robinson.

Up to the close of 1945, three meetings of the examiners were held and the applications of 79 persons considered. Four new applications were at that time awaiting consideration. A meeting of the examiners is called for January 19, 1946.

Of the 79 applicants, 56 have been awarded Grade I Certificates, 17 Grade II, and four Grade III. Two applications were refused as not measuring up to requirements laid down in the regulations put into effect by order-in-council on August 15, 1944. Included in the Grade I Certificates are five reclassifications, which were made upon presentation of further information supporting requests for reconsideration. Similarly two of the 17 Grade II Certificates were granted to applicants reclassified from Grade III.

The examiners have kept in mind a principle that was stressed whenever certification was discussed in B. C. L. A. meetings and with provincial and municipal authorities, namely: that inauguration of certification should not adversely affect the accepted professional standing of librarians engaged in library work at such time as certification should be introduced. This principle was followed to the letter and in the spirit. It is now, however, no longer effective except in the case of librarians who were in the armed forces, the merchant navy or recognized wartime auxiliary services, at the time the Regulations went into effect. These librarians should apply, as promptly as possible, upon return to civil life, to Mr. T. W. Hall, Registrar, Department of Education, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C.

A word or two might appropriately be said here in clarification of a seeming misunderstanding on the part of some applicants as to the two entirely distinct bases upon which the examiners have authority to award certificates. One basis is that of specific library training and experience. The other is the status of professional position held at a stated time. In every case the highest grade of certificate has been awarded to which the applicant was entitled on the basis of either one of these qualifications. Some applicants appear to have had the impression, however, that if, in respect of each of these two categories of qualifications, they fell just short of qualifying for a particular grade, the combination of the two would "get them over the hump."

Such is not the case. If, for example an applicant's professional position entitled him to only a Grade III Certificate, the fact that he had a Master's Degree and many years of library experience would not give him the right to a Grade I Certificate, for which a Bachelor's Degree in Librarianship is also required on the grounds purely of technical qualifications.

It should be repeated that, upon completion of demobilization and the final receipt of applications from former members of the armed forces or auxiliary services, professional qualifications will thereafter remain the sole basis for certification under terms of the Regulations as now in force.

British Columbia's forward step in the matter of certification has elicited much favorable comment from various parts of Canada and the United States. It should of course be regarded as only the first step, the next one being the adoption of certification standards as mandatory in the appointment of librarians to responsible positions. Vancouver Public Library Board has given the lead in this respect. A third and interesting step is indicated by the action of Vancouver Public Library staff in bringing to the attention of the Library Board that the logical counterpart of standardization of qualifications is standardization of correspondingly adequate salaries.

B. M. Carruthers
E. S. Robinson
C. K. Morison, Chairman
T. W. Hall, Secretary

CANADIAN LIBRARY COUNCIL

The organizational conference of the new Canadian Library Association will be held on June 14th and 15th at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

An Activities Committee has been appointed to collect suggestions as to the scope of the proposed Association. This is old ground for British Columbia librarians but new needs will doubtless have evolved new ideas. The question might well be the subject of discussion at staff meetings. Suggestions should in any case be sent as soon as possible to the British Columbia member of the Activities Committee, Mr. C. K. Morison, Provincial Library, Victoria.

The current number of the Canadian Library Council Bulletin features a report by Mr. R. E. Crouch of his western tour last spring -- a revealing account of the shameful inadequacy of our library service; a reading list for boys and girls, a list of recent Canadian publications of general interest; an account by Miss Roberta Wilson of her work with children and young people in the Fraser Valley; and a description of the new Canadian army library services which have recently been reorganized and put on a professional basis.

TRINIDAD LIBRARY

Dr. Helen G. Stewart, Director of the Regional Library (British Council), Port of Spain, Trinidad, writes that the whole Eastern Caribbean is her parish, each island of which has "a very distinct and independent personality, fairly bristling with problems and question marks." The library undertook in the first place to repair and catalog approximately 50,000 volumes belonging to the existing libraries, apart from fiction. Owing to abnormal

conditions of transportation and publishing, the stock of new books was still short of 20,000 late in 1945.

The problem of library personnel has been tackled by starting a six-months training class for students from the islands. This preliminary course will be followed by a second six-months course for those who stay with the library. Matriculation standing is required for entrance. Qualifications for head and senior positions will include a university degree, preliminary work in the Region, and a full course in library training in England, Canada or the United States.

New legislation was being drafted to meet the peculiar requirements of this interesting library system, and the British Columbia "Public Libraries Act" was sought as, in some degree, a guide.

FRASER VALLEY UNION LIBRARY

The Fraser Valley Union Library has had an almost complete turnover of staff. Mr. R. Bruce Carrick, Chief Librarian for the past five years, has been appointed head of the new library at Brandon, Manitoba. Mr. Carrick, besides having been treasurer of B. C. L. A. for a three-year term, has been particularly active in community affairs at Abbotsford -- he has held high office in the Lions Club and the Board of Trade there.

Miss L. Roberta Wilson, Children's Librarian since 1942, will serve as Assistant Librarian at Brandon. She has served on several B. C. L. A. committees, and before going to Abbotsford she worked in the University and the Vancouver Public libraries.

Mr. Roman Mostar, Cataloger since 1940, has been appointed to a position in the Circulation Division of the University of Washington Library, Seattle. He served in the R. C. A. F. for three years, returning to his library duties last October. Before joining the Fraser Valley staff he spent several years with the Vancouver Public Library.

The new Chief Librarian at the Fraser Valley is Major Peter Grossman, who needs no introduction to British Columbia librarians. He served under Dr. Helen G. Stewart in the Fraser Valley demonstration days, and later took his library degree at the University of California. He was then placed in charge of the Vancouver Island Union Library. Going on active service with the Westminster Regiment of September, 1939, Major Grossman acted as second in command of the regiment in their Italian campaign. Wounded in action on the Melfa River front, Major Grossman was discharged in June, 1945. Since that time he has been Veteran's Officer with the Department of Labor. He is a member of the executive of the U. B. C. Alumni Association and the Westminster Regimental Association.

OKANAGAN UNION LIBRARY

The annual meeting of the Okanagan Union Library was held in Kelowna on Thursday, January 17th, 1946. A budget of $12,000 was passed for the current year. The expenses of 1945 were discussed, these amounted to $10,774.58, leaving a balance in the bank of $209.32. It was voted that current population figures be used for all units in estimating the 1946 revenue, in order that no great increase in library tax quotas should be experienced every 10 years.

A constitution was approved and adopted. This stipulates that there shall be two board meetings a year; one to be held at Headquarters in January and one in July, the date and place to be left to the executive.

During the year a plaque was put in the Salmon Arm Library honoring the memory of Daniel H. Leech, one time member of the board representing the Salmon Arm municipality, who left a legacy of $2500 to the library at the time of his death.

Mr. Jones reported that a resolution had been presented by Mr. Hansen to the provincial convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada at Vancouver on November 23rd 1945, urging that there be devoted "to public libraries the official attention and the financial support compatible with their important place in the educational and cultural life of the community."

Those elected to office for the current year were: Mr. Ol L. Jones, Chairman; Mr. G. C. Hume, Treasurer; Mrs. McKay, Vice-chairman; Mrs. G. Ffoulkes, Secretary. Members of the executive will be:

Mr. J. C. Barkwill, Mr. S. J. Land, Mrs. F. J. Foot, the latter to be Chairman of the House Committee.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

The Provincial Library announces the publication of Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry under the 'Public Inquiries Act' in British Columbia 1872-1942 compiled by Marjorie C. Holmes, Assistant Librarian.

A small edition only has been printed and is available at the price of $1.00. Make cheque or money order payable to Provincial Library, Victoria, B. C. A few copies of Publications of the Government of British Columbia 1871-1937, a previous publication of the Provincial Library, are still available. Price $2.00

A 16 mm. Recordak microfilm camera has recently been installed for the use of the Provincial Library and the Provincial Archives, and continuous production is now under way. Complete files of important British Columbia newspapers are receiving first attention.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The work of cataloging our Canadiana in Dr. Lamb's new expansion of the Library of Congress classification is now well under way. Miss Doreen Woodford, Assistant Cataloger, is devoting full time to the work, with special reference to the Howay-Reid collection.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Vancouver Public Library is now open every week day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This is the first time the twelve-hour day has been in effect since 1933, and it is proving to be very popular with the public.

A film library was started in the Fine Arts Division at the beginning of the year. Miss Moira Armour joined the staff of the division on January 2nd to take charge of this service. It is hoped that the films will be available for circulation in the near future.

Forst's Ltd., Vancouver merchants, have spotlighted the library's building program by donating two 50-foot lots on the south side of Hastings St. between Clinton and Slocan, as a site for the Hastings East branch. The property is in the heart of the shopping district of that section, and will be an excellent location. At a special ceremony at the City Hall, Mr. Alex. Forst presented the deed to Mayor Cornett, and was warmly thanked by the city fathers.

PERSONAL NOTES

Aylen: Miss Dorothy Aylen, formerly with the Vancouver Public Library, has joined the Periodicals Department of the University library.

Fayre: Mrs. Jessie Fayre has retired after 21 years in the Vancouver Public Library.

Fisher: Mrs. Betty Fisher has joined the staff of the Victoria Public Library as a temporary employee while waiting for passage to England where she will join her husband who is taking a medical course at Edinburgh University.

Hodges: Miss Hope Hodges of Victoria has been appointed Assistant Librarian of the Fraser Valley Union Library.

Holland: Miss Virginia Holland, on leave of absence from the Vancouver Public Library, is working in the State Library, Sacramento. Mrs. Betty Hoffmeister Thornelce is acting as head of the Kitsilano Branch.

Horwood: Miss Ruby Horwood has come from Newfoundland to join the Okanagan Union Library staff. She has been librarian for the Newfoundland Regional Committee of the Canadian Legion for the past two years and before that she was cataloger in the Gosling Memorial Library, St. John's.

Liddell: Miss Ruth Liddell, formerly of the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library, was married on December 22nd to Mr. Donald MacKinnon of Cadomin, Alberta.

Messer: Miss Vera Messer of the bindery staff of the Vancouver Public Library left to be married on February 1st to Mr. William Lavery, Hedley, B. C.